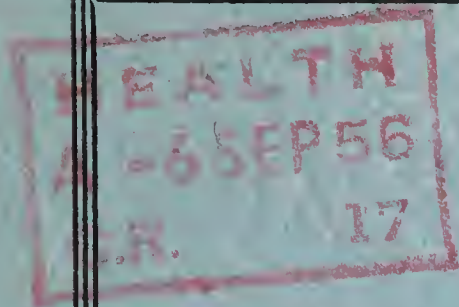


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Preston Rural District Council



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

1955

Preston Rural District Council



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To the Chairman and Members of the Preston Rural District Council

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting for your consideration the Annual Report on the health, sanitary conditions and circumstances of the Preston Rural District for the year ending 31st December, 1955. together with the vital statistics relative to that period.

Vital statistics related to England and Wales, no longer issued by the Registrar-General, have again been supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health enabling a comparison with national figures to be made.

The estimated mid-year population of the Rural District was 39,270, an increase of 570 over that for the previous year. The natural increase (i.e. excess of births over deaths), discounting institution deaths, was 128. The number of live births, viz. 560, was 80 more than in the previous year. The crude birth-rate per 1,000 estimated population rose by 1.90 from 12.4 in 1954 to 14.3. Mortality from all causes increased during the year by 22 from 574 in 1954 to 596, giving a crude rate equivalent to 15.2 per 1,000 estimated population, but the rate was swollen by 164 institution deaths. Heart disease in all its forms continued as the major cause of death forming 37.5 per cent. of all deaths. There was an increase in deaths attributable to vascular lesions of the nervous system. Cancer deaths remained virtually at the same level as in 1954, but whilst the total was only one more than in the previous year, deaths from cancer of the breast doubled. There was a slight decrease in cancer of the lung. There were twelve infant deaths, the same as last year, but the mortality rate fell from 25 in 1954 to 21, the lowest on record. Neo-natal mortality showed a slight increase, but there were no maternal deaths. Deaths assigned to the Rural District as due to tuberculosis of the respiratory system numbered seven, the same as last year, and were equivalent to a death-rate of 0.18 per 1,000 estimated population compared with 0.13 for England and Wales. Four of the respiratory deaths were related to inmates of the Whittingham Hospital. Since institution deaths have had to be accepted as belonging to the Rural District, all mortality rates, with the obvious exception of those rates related to infant and maternal mortality, have exceeded national figures. Other features of the vital statistics were increases in the number of illegitimate live births and stillbirths.

The Rural District was entirely free of smallpox, enteric fever and diphtheria during 1955. Whooping cough notifications were appreciably less, and to a minor degree this could be said of dysentery. There was a slight decline in the incidence of scarlet fever and food poisoning, but measles was once again in epidemic form, and more unfortunate still was the notification of seven cases of acute poliomyelitis, five being paralytic cases. The number of notified cases of respiratory tuberculosis added to the register during the year was 19, the same as last year, and notified non-respiratory cases numbered five.

It is only possible in this introduction to refer briefly to the vital statistics, but a picture emerges which portrays the well-being of the Rural District community.

I have confined comment on housing conditions prevailing in the Rural District to the section of the report which presents housing statistics, in order that points to which I refer can be more easily appreciated.

The problem of atmospheric pollution no doubt requires great emphasis to be placed on industrial and domestic smoke and fumes, but amongst other considerations, the problem of oily fumes discharged into the atmosphere, especially in built-up areas, by diesel engine vehicles should not be ignored. The oil engine is quickly extending its field of usefulness throughout the whole range of commercial vehicles, from the heaviest down to vans and even to private cars. There can be little doubt but that petrol or diesel vehicle exhaust discharges are, in common with other atmospheric pollutions, prejudicial to health. In defence of the diesel engine, it could be said that fumes of petrol engines are more poisonous, but it must be remembered that exhaust gases of petrol engines are extremely light and quickly rise in the air to be dispersed by the wind. Not so the oily soot in diesel exhausts. This hangs around the streets and is absorbed into the lungs. If we have got to have diesel engines because they are cheaper to run, there should be an immediate tightening of control over their use. The black oily smoke often seen pouring out of diesel lorries is almost entirely preventable, and the law—The Motor Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations, 1951, made under the 1930 Road Traffic Act—requires every motor vehicle to be maintained in such condition as to prevent the emission of smoke or visible vapour, the emission of which could be avoided by taking any reasonable steps or by the exercise of reasonable care. If it is possible to influence the enforcement of the law in this respect, it should be done. If there is difficulty in enforcement, then the law should be explicitly amended.

Even though all the environmental services of the Health Department were continued throughout the year, some aspects of the work received far less attention than was desirable not only by reason of a reduced inspectorial staff for a period of four months, but also by reason of the tremendous increase in duties created by the advent of new legislation, and it is time that serious consideration was given to the adequacy, or more to the point, the inadequacy of staff.

In conclusion, I gratefully acknowledge the help received from the staff of the Department, and the valuable collaboration received from Mr. Young and Mr. Collier. I would also like to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee for their encouragement and support which have been greatly appreciated.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. WALKER,

Medical Officer of Health.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS for the year 1955.

With the kind permission of Dr. V. Barocas, Director of the Jeremiah Horrocks Observatory, Moor Park, Preston, I submit extracts from his report on local meteorological conditions which prevailed during 1955.

The year 1955 has been a memorable year for sunshine and dry weather following the previous very wet year. The mean temperature for the year, however, was not high; it was 0.4°F . lower than average and identical to the mean temperature in 1954. The total rainfall on the other hand, was very low, being only 26.98 inches. This was 10.67 inches less than average and 27.14 inches less than in 1954. The year 1955 was the driest year of the century in Preston, being the driest year since 1887 when the total rainfall was 24.63 inches. With the exception of June and December, all months had rainfall below average. August was well below average as the total rainfall for the month was 3.15 inches lower than average. It was also the driest month of the year with 1.00 inch of rain. This was very unusual as August is generally the wettest month of the year in Preston. The wettest month of the year was December with 4.36 inches of rain. This amount, however, was only 0.72 higher than average.

The rainfall was fairly evenly distributed over the whole of the year with equal amounts for the summer and winter. The autumn was the wettest of the seasons.

Rain fell on 182 days, 15 days less than average, and 67 days less than the previous year. The ground was flooded only on 30 days as against 132 days last year. The wettest day of the year was December 8th when 0.82 inches of rain fell.

An absolute drought occurred from July 4th to August 1st, while a dry spell occurred from March 2nd to March 17th and from April 10th to April 24th.

As far as temperature is concerned, February again was the coldest month, the average temperature for the month being 33.7°F . This was 5.7°F . lower than average. The coldest day of the year was February 23rd when the minimum temperature reached 12.2°F .

The warmest month of the year was August with an average temperature of 63.7°F . which was 3.7°F . higher than average. The highest temperature of the year was also reached in August when 83.9°F . were recorded on August 24th. On the whole, while the winter months were colder, the summer months were warmer than average.

Ground frost occurred on more nights than in the previous year. The total number for 1955 was 114 as against 80 in 1954. The lowest ground temperature recorded was 5.0°F . on the night of February 23rd. Air frost occurred on 88 days as against 49 in 1954.

Of the months of the year, July and August were remarkable for dry sunny weather and high temperatures, but, on the other hand, the early months of the year, February and March in particular, will be remembered for the cold, snow and ice. November had many days without wind while December was warm. The deep snow of December 20th (7 inches in depth) disappeared very quickly with a sudden rise in temperature, and this rather high temperature for the time of the year persisted until the end of the year with daily maximum temperature ranging from 44°F . to 56°F .

With the exception of January, February and December, the barometer during the other months of the year was higher than average.

OTHER PHENOMENA

Snow fell on 34 days during the year and on 24 days snow was lying on the ground at the time of observation at 0900 G.M.T. Hail occurred on 12 days and thunder was heard only on 4 days.

Visibility during the year was much better than in 1954. Fog at 0900 G.M.T. was observed on 34 days and only on November 12th was thick fog recorded (visibility less than 44 yds.). On the whole the year was free from dense fog. Abnormal visibility during the day was observed on 28 days, a considerable increase on last year's 9 days. In 1955 we only had 3 gales and all of them occurred during the last three months of the year, 1 in October and 2 in December. None of these was severe.

The Moor Park pond was frozen on 61 days. Most of these days were early in the year, 14 days in January, 19 days in February, 19 days in March, 2 days in November and 7 days in December.

Glazed frost was not observed during the year under review.

Dry air (relative humidity less than 60%) was recorded on 12 days, distributed as follows : 1 day in March, 1 day in April, 3 days in May, 3 days in June, 2 days in July, 1 day in August and 1 day in November. On July 28th the relative humidity at 0900 G.M.T. was as low as 26%.

The optical phenomena observed during the year consisted of 42 solar and 1 lunar halos, 7 solar and 20 lunar coronae and 19 rainbows.

Some of the meteorological observations for 1955 are summarised in the tables which follow :—

EXTREMES OF TEMPERATURE

Month	Highest Maximum		Lowest Minimum		Lowest Maximum		Highest Minimum	
	Temp.	Date	Temp.	Date	Temp.	Date	Temp.	Date
January	52	25	18	14	32	13	46	30
February	49	1	12	23	33	21	40	1
March	55	25	24	20 & 31	37	1	42	16
April	63	20	30	1	51	7	50	28
May	71	31	31	11	47	17	49	5
June	74	6	33	10	50	7	56	29
July	82	12	46	1	60	3	63	8
August	84	24	45	8	60	9	65	23
September	75	7	43	15	58	16	59	2
October	67	11	25	29	44	31	56	9
November	59	4 & 5	25	25	39	18	51	4 & 7
December	56	27	19	22	34	19	50	7
Year	83.9	24 Aug.	12.2	23 Feb.	32.1	13 Jan.	65.0	23 Aug.

RAINFALL AND RELATIVE HUMIDITY

Month				Difference from Average Inches	No. of Days				Wettest Days				Vapour Pressure in mbs.	Relative Humidity % satur.		
	Total Rainfall Inches				Rain Days	Wet Days		Fall Inch.	Date							
January	..	2.50	...	−0.75	...	19	...	10	...	0.71	...	15	...	6.6	...	87.1
February	...	1.75	...	−0.72	...	18	...	10	...	0.37	...	14	...	5.5	...	81.7
March	...	1.27	...	−1.11	...	11	...	7	...	0.37	...	25	...	6.1	...	80.0
April	...	1.94	...	−0.16	...	14	...	10	...	0.48	...	7	...	9.4	...	82.5
May	...	2.45	...	−0.02	...	19	...	15	...	0.60	...	12	...	9.1	...	73.5
June	...	3.18	...	+0.52	...	18	...	14	...	0.80	...	7	...	11.8	...	77.3
July	...	1.23	...	−2.22	...	3	...	3	...	0.68	...	2	...	15.3	...	74.4
August	...	1.00	...	−3.15	...	8	...	5	...	0.35	...	9	...	15.8	...	77.1
September	...	3.27	...	−0.26	...	22	...	15	...	0.53	...	1	...	13.3	...	81.5
October	...	2.41	...	−1.47	...	16	...	13	...	0.55	...	5	...	9.9	...	83.3
November	...	1.62	...	−2.05	...	13	...	8	...	0.39	...	7	...	8.9	...	87.8
December	...	4.36	...	+0.72	...	21	...	17	...	0.82	...	8	...	7.8	...	87.6
Year	...	26.98	...	−10.67	...	182	...	127	...	0.82	...	8 Dec.	...	10.0	...	81.1

VISIBILITY 09.00 G.M.T.

							Number of Days													
Month	Dense Fog		Thick Fog		Fog		Mod. Fog		Mist or Haze		Poor Visi- bility		Mod. Visi- bility		Good Visi- bility		Very Good Vis.		Excel. Visi- bility	
January	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	5	...	7	...	6	...	9	...	1	...	3	...	0
February	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	3	...	2	...	11	...	4	...	2	...	5	...	1
March	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	3	...	3	...	6	...	4	...	6	...	9	...	0
April	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	0	...	3	...	15	...	8	...	1	...	1	...	1
May	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	6	...	8	...	3	...	14	...	0
June	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	6	...	15	...	3	...	5	...	0
July	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	7	...	10	...	7	...	7	...	0
August	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	5	...	15	...	6	...	4	...	0
September	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	2	...	3	...	11	...	8	...	5	...	1
October	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	5	...	5	...	7	...	6	...	1	...	6	...	0
November	...	0	...	1	...	2	...	7	...	3	...	5	...	10	...	1	...	1	...	0
December	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	5	...	4	...	9	...	3	...	6	...	3	...	0
Year	...	0	...	1	...	4	...	29	...	31	...	86	...	103	...	45	...	63	...	3

WEATHER

Number of Days																
Month	Snow or Sleet		Snow Lying at 0900 G.M.T.		Hail		Thunder heard		Fog at 0900 G.M.T.		Gale Wind- force 8 or above		Ground Frost		Air Frost	
January	...	11	...	9	...	4	...	1	...	5	...	0	...	15	...	17
February	...	12	...	11	...	2	...	0	...	3	...	0	...	22	...	20
March	...	8	...	1	...	2	...	0	...	3	...	0	...	25	...	22
April	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	0	...	9	...	2
May	...	1	...	0	...	4	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	5	...	2
June	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	0
July	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0
August	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0
September	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	1	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0
October	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	6	...	1	...	12	...	7
November	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	0	...	10	...	0	...	12	...	7
December	...	2	...	3	...	0	...	0	...	6	...	2	...	13	...	11
Year	...	34	...	24	...	12	...	4	...	34	...	3	...	114	...	88

Physical Features of the Area.

The Rural District is largely a lowland area, mainly below 250 feet, lying largely to the north of the River Ribble, but with considerable extensions south of the river, south-west and east of Preston. In the extreme north of the district the land rises rapidly to 874 feet at Beacon Fell, and in the east heights of over a thousand feet are attained on the southern slopes of Longridge Fell. North of Preston the drainage is largely eastwards to the River Wyre, while the rest of the district drains directly or indirectly into the Ribble.

The solid geological formations represented in the district are the Carboniferous Limestone, Millstone Grit, Bunter Sandstone and Keupur Marl. These formations are rarely seen at the surface, however, because they are buried beneath a thick cover of "drift" deposits. Apart from the valley alluvium of the rivers and streams and the raised terraces along the Ribble and Darwen, the "drift" is composed of glacial boulder clay, sand and gravel.

The latter occur only as impersistent patches on the boulder clay, such as that to the north-east of Goosnargh, or is exposed in the sides of the many stream valleys. Boulder clay covers most of the district, and in general gives rise to a heavy clay soil. The numerous marl pits which were dug many years ago to obtain material to lighten the soil are a characteristic feature of boulder clay areas. The heavy clay soils provide excellent pastures which support dairy herds, and arable farming is of lesser importance. Poultry farming is widespread, as it is throughout the whole of the Fylde area.

The solid rocks have little effect on the physical features of the area because of the thick drift cover. Over much of the area this thick cover renders it impossible to determine with any degree of accuracy the nature and structure of the underlying rocks unless borings are undertaken. In the extreme north and east of the district, however, the solid formations outcrop at the surface. These outcrops belong to the Carboniferous limestone and Millstone Grit formations. The former is the oldest formation represented in the district, but here it does not carry the massive limestone beds so characteristic of other areas, e.g., Clitheroe. It is composed of a thick series of shales with thin limestones, the Worston Shales and the Pendleside Limestone series which underlie the greater part of the parishes of Goosnargh, Whittingham and Houghton. Towards the top of the latter there is a rather thicker limestone bed, the Pendleside Limestone, which occurs on the northern flanks of Longridge Fell. The top of the Carboniferous Limestone is formed by the Lower Bowland Shales, which contain a fairly characteristic grit band, the Pendleside Grit. These occur on Beacon Fell and Longridge Fell. The Millstone Grit is represented by a series of grits and shales. The lowest beds are the Upper Bowland Shales, which are succeeded by the massive Pendle Grit. This latter forms the conspicuous features of Beacon Fell and Longridge Fell, and together with the overlying shales and grits, underlie the parishes of Hothersall, Ribchester and Dutton. Millstone Grit shales and grits are present beneath the "drift" in the southern part of the parish of Samlesbury, and the north-east part of Grimsargh parish. The grits in this area have not been tried as a source of water supply, so the potentiality of water bores is not known. Results from boring in grits vary considerably according to the nature of the grit and its openness of grain and extent of the jointing and fissuring.

West of the Carboniferous Limestone and Millstone Grit occurs the Triassic Bunter Sandstone, a fairly hard red, yellow or buff-coloured sandstone. The details of structure and the position of faults are only assumed, but the following picture has been obtained by the study of available bore records. The Bunter Sandstone is faulted against or overlies the most steeply dipping Carboniferous Limestone shales, and the Millstone Grit to the east and south-east. The sandstone dips gently to the north-west and occurs beneath the drift in the parishes of Barton, Woodplumpton, Lea, Hutton, Penwortham, Cuerdale, the south-west part of the parish of Grimsargh and the north-west part of Samlesbury parsh. It is affected by strong faults, the exact positions of which are difficult to determine. The Bunter Sandstone is an excellent source of underground water, and there are several private water wells in Preston which draw on this source. It is probable that further supplies could be obtained north of Preston, but care would be needed in the siting of the wells.

Keuper Marl, thinly bedded, fine grained red marls with bands and patches of green-coloured marls and thin bands of fine grained sandstone or "skerries" are present beneath the boulder clay in the parishes of Longton, Little Hoole, Much Hoole and Farington. The beds dip north-westwards and are separated from the Bunter Sandstone to the north by a fault. Borings in Keuper Marl give little or no water, and that which is obtained is too highly mineralised to be of use for public supply.

General Statistics

STATISTIC AND GENERAL SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

- (1) Area in acres—50,146.
- (2) Population (Census 1951)—38,475.
- (3) Registrar-General estimate of home population, 1955—39,270.
- (4) Number of inhabited houses (Census 1951)—10,614.
- (5) Number of inhabited houses end of 1955 according to Rate Books—11,770
- (6) Rateable value, 31st March, 1955—£243,336.
- (7) Sum represented by a penny rate—£991 (31st March, 1955 estimated).

The Rural District, which is mainly agricultural, consists chiefly of pleasant, undulating country, dotted here and there with patches of woodland, and watered by innumerable brooks.

Dairy farming, poultry farming, market gardening, cotton manufacture, paper manufacture and engineering comprise the main industries. The employment available is of a healthy character, and there was little evidence of unemployment among the inhabitants of the district in 1955.

There are facilities for religious worship, according to denomination, throughout the district, and several parishes have Village Halls and/or Women's Institutes. In addition, there are clubs, based upon religious, political or recreational groups, and in these places, particularly in the winter months, lectures, concerts, dramatic society meetings, plays, debates and dances are held.

Golf courses are situate at Penwortham and Lea. There are cricket grounds at New Longton, Penwortham and Whittingham. Facilities for tennis, football and bowls are available, and Playing Fields have been provided by the Rural Districts Council in practically all parishes.

There are 34 schools in the area, providing facilities for both primary and secondary education, and the Lancashire County Council provides branches of the County Library mostly in schools and village halls throughout the district.

POPULATION OF THE RURAL DISTRICT

The Registrar-General's estimate of home population of the Rural District as at 30th June, 1955, was 39,270, an increase of 570 compared with the estimate of 38,700 for the previous year.

Estimates of home population include members of the Armed Forces stationed in the area and merchant seamen, whether at home or overseas, but exclude members of the Armed Forces stationed outside England and Wales, and non-civilians of foreign countries, Dominions, etc., temporarily in the country.

The natural increase in the population of the Rural District, i.e., excess of births over deaths, did not materialise by reason of the fact that from the 1st January, 1954, all deaths occurring in the Whittingham Hospital and Ribchester Institution have had to be accepted as belonging to the Rural District. In consequence, deaths exceeded births by 36. The number of persons per acre was 0.78, and the number of acres per person 1.27.

VITAL STATISTICS

PERIOD				LIVE BIRTHS		DEATHS (all causes)		STILL-BIRTHS		MATERNAL MORTALITY		INFANT MORTALITY			
												TOTAL		NEO-NATAL	
				No. Registered	Rate per 1000 Population	No. Registered	Rate per 1000 Population	No. Registered	Rate per 1000 Total Births	No. of Deaths Registered	Rate per 1000 Total Births	No. of Deaths Registered	Rate per 1000 Live Births	No. of Deaths Registered	Rate per 1000 Live Births
Year ...	1955	...		560	*14.3	596	*15.2	16	28	—	—	12	21	9	16
Year ...	1954	...		480	12.4	574	14.8	5	10	—	—	12	25	7	15
	1953	...		541	14.1	546	14.2	15	27	—	—	20	37	16	30
	1952	...		485	12.6	401	10.4	12	24	—	—	11	23	9	19
	1951	...		498	12.7	473	12.0	10	20	—	—	12	24	11	22
	1950	...		567	14.7	461	11.9	18	31	1	1.71	15	26	12	21
Average 5 years : 1950 — 1954				—	13.3	—	12.6	—	22	—	0.34	—	27	—	21

* Adjusted (live birth-rate ; comparability factor, 1.13) = 16.1 per 1,000
(death-rate ; comparability factor, 0.96) = 14.6 per 1,000

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

LIVE BIRTHS. The statistics with regard to both births and deaths have again been supplied by the Registrar-General through the County Public Health Department. The number of births and deaths referred to in this report are those registered during the calendar year, corrected for "inward" and "outward" transfers.

According to the Registrar-General, the total births registered in or belonging to the Rural area during the year 1955 number 560 (males 282, females 278); 80 more than in the year 1954.

The live birth-rate for the Rural District, calculated on the estimated home population, corresponds to 14.3 per 1,000. Last year the rate was 12.4. The adjusted birth-rate, using the comparability factor supplied by the Registrar-General, is 16.1. The live birth-rate for England and Wales for the year 1955 was 15.0.

The sex distribution of the children born alive during 1955 is shown below. For comparative purposes, the figures for each of the previous post-war years are also given :

Year		Males		Females		Total
1946	.....	299	.....	260	.....	559
1947	.....	319	.....	311	.....	630
1948	.....	289	.....	257	.....	546
1949	.....	281	.....	299	.....	580
1950	.....	275	.....	292	.....	567
1951	.....	260	.....	238	.....	498
1952	.....	239	.....	246	.....	485
1953	.....	270	.....	271	.....	541
1954	.....	257	.....	223	.....	480
1955	.....	282	.....	278	.....	560

The excess of births over deaths in the Rural District in each of the 10 years, 1946-1955, is shown below :

EXCESS OF BIRTHS OVER DEATHS

Year 1946	.....	131	Year 1951	.....	25
„ 1947	.....	204	„ 1952	.....	84
„ 1948	.....	185	„ 1953	.....	Nil
„ 1949	.....	179	„ 1954	.....	Nil
„ 1950	.....	106	„ 1955	.....	Nil

The figure for 1955 is in fact minus 36 for the reason stated on the previous page. However, if the deaths assignable to the Rural District from the Whittingham Hospital are deducted from the total deaths, the excess of births over deaths is 128, which, compared with the period 1950-52, is favourable. The figure for 1954 was 83.

ILLEGITIMATE LIVE BIRTHS. The number of births of illegitimate children belonging to the Rural District and registered during 1955 compared with that for each of the previous post-war years is shown overleaf :

Year		No. of illegitimate live births		Decrease or increase on previous year		Percentage of total live births
1946	.....	23	.....	-9	.....	4.1
1947	.....	17	.....	-6	.....	2.7
1948	.....	25	.....	+8	.....	4.5
1949	.....	19	.....	-6	.....	3.2
1950	.....	8	.....	-11	.....	1.4
1951	.....	16	.....	+8	.....	3.2
1952	.....	13	.....	-3	.....	2.7
1953	.....	12	.....	-1	.....	2.2
1954	.....	5	.....	-7	.....	1.0
1955	.....	16	.....	+11	.....	2.8

The number of illegitimate live births at sixteen was one above the average for the post-war years and eleven above the figure for the previous year. The tendency in the Administrative County as a whole during the post-war years has been one of continual decline. The above table shows that this is not true of the Rural District.

STILLBIRTHS. The number of registered stillbirths assigned to the Rural District during 1955 was sixteen (ten males, six females) or eleven more than in the previous year. The resultant rate was 28 per 1,000 total births. Expressed per 1,000 of the estimated home population, the Rural District rate was 0.40 compared with a rate for England and Wales of 0.35.

DEATHS. The net deaths actually belonging to the Preston Rural District for the year 1955 numbered 596 (males 293, females 303). This total includes deaths of persons belonging to the Rural District who died outside the District, and of persons who died in the Whittingham Hospital and Ribchester Institution, irrespective of their home address.

The death rate for the Rural District, calculated on a home population of 39,270 is 15.2 per 1,000. Last year the death-rate was 14.8. The average death-rate for the five years 1950-1954 was 12.6.

Once again the Registrar-General has supplied a comparability factor for adjusting local death rates. This factor takes into account the varying population constitution, including sex and age distribution, to make every district comparative from the mortality point of view with the crude death-rate of the country as a whole, or with similarly adjusted death-rates for other areas. The adjusted death-rate using the comparability factor is 14.6 per 1,000, as against last year's adjusted rate of 14.2.

The death-rate for the whole of England and Wales in 1955 was 11.7 per 1,000 home population.

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH. Reference was made in the 1951 report to the adoption by the World Health Organisation of the Sixth Revision of the International Lists of Diseases and Causes of Death and the 1950 introduction by the Registrar-General of a new Short List of 36 Causes of Death. The absence

of any guidance from the Registrar-General as to the effect of the new classification on certain specific causes of death has left in doubt the validity of a comparison between mortality from such causes in the period prior to, and that in the period after, the revision. In certain instances, therefore, no attempt has been made in the following paragraphs to compare the mortality of the year under report with any year prior to 1950.

The relative importance of the principal causes of death is shown in the following table :

Cause of death	No. of deaths	1955	
			Percentage of total deaths
Heart disease (all forms)	224	.....	37.5
Vascular lesions of nervous system	89	.....	14.9
Cancer (including Hodgkin's disease, leukæmia and aleukæmia)	82	.....	13.7
Pneumonia, Bronchitis and Influenza	39	.....	6.5
Violence (including all Accidents, Suicide and Homicide)	31	.....	5.2
Other circulatory disease	22	.....	3.7
Nephritis and Nephrosis	12	.....	2.0
Tuberculosis (all forms)	8	.....	1.3

HEART DISEASES. From 1950 particulars of deaths from the various heart diseases have been sub-divided into the three groups—"coronary disease, angina," "hypertension with heart disease," and "other heart disease." The deaths classified to these causes and assigned to the Rural District in 1955 and the preceding year, together with the equivalent mortality rates, are set out below :

Classification	No. of deaths		Death-rate per 1,000 estimated home population	
	1954	1955	1954	1955
Coronary disease, angina	72	62	1.86	1.57
Hypertension with heart disease	24	28	0.62	0.71
Other heart disease	144	134	3.72	3.41
Heart disease—all forms	240	224	6.20	5.70

The 224 fatalities from heart disease represented a decrease of 16 compared with the previous year, the resultant rate of 5.70 being 0.50 per 1,000 of population below that for 1954.

VASCULAR LESIONS OF NERVOUS SYSTEM

This condition, like heart disease and cancer, is one which principally affects older people. The 89 deaths ascribed to this condition in 1955 were 17 more than the number for the previous year, and were equivalent to a rate of 2.26 per 1,000 of the estimated home population compared with that of 1.86 for 1954 and 2.29 for 1953. They amounted to 14.9 per cent. of the total deaths from all causes.

MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, INCLUDING NEOPLASMS OF LYMPHATIC AND HAEMATOPLETIC TISSUES

This title embraces items 10-15 inclusive of the Short List of 36 Causes of death as set out on Page 17. It is not exactly comparable with the general title of "cancer" used for statistics prior to 1950 by virtue of the inclusion in it of deaths from Hodgkin's disease, leukaemia and aleukaemia, which were excluded from the latter title. The deaths from the constituent causes assigned to the Rural District in 1955 and the previous year are given below by sex :

Classification	1954			1955		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
Stomach	8	6	14	10	2	12
Lung, Bronchus	8	2	10	7	1	8
Breast	—	6	6	—	12	12
Uterus	—	3	3	—	8	8
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	21	25	46	16	25	41
Leukæmia, aleukæmia	1	1	2	1	—	1
	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total—all forms	38	43	81	34	48	82
	—	—	—	—	—	—

There was therefore an increase in total deaths of one as compared with 1954. The mortality rate produced by the 82 deaths in 1955 at 2.08 per 1,000 estimated home population represented a decrease of 0.01 per 1,000 over the previous year.

PNEUMONIA, BRONCHITIS AND INFLUENZA

Thirty-nine deaths were assigned to these causes—Pneumonia 18, Bronchitis 17, and Influenza 4. The number of deaths from Pneumonia declined by six compared with the previous year, but the deaths from Bronchitis rose by four, and from Influenza by three. There was one death from Influenza last year, three in 1953, none in 1952, and 22 deaths in 1951, but this disease is not normally a cause of heavy mortality.

VIOLENCE

Deaths from violence are divided into four groups in the Registrar-General's Short List of 36 Causes of Death—Motor vehicle accidents, all other accidents, suicide, and homicide and operations of war. There were six deaths from motor vehicle accidents, fourteen from all other accidents, eleven deaths from suicide, and none from homicide and operations of war. The deaths attributable to suicide exceed the previous year's total by six, and, in fact, only 14 deaths were ascribed to this cause during the five year period 1950-1954.

OTHER CIRCULATORY DISEASE

Deaths in 1955 falling within this classification, which covers all diseases of the circulatory system except the heart diseases mentioned earlier, numbered 22, an increase of three over the total for the previous year. The total of 22 deaths amounted to 3.7 per cent. of the deaths from all causes and was equivalent to a rate of 0.56 per 1,000 of the estimated home population.

TUBERCULOSIS—Respiratory

The deaths assigned to the Rural District in 1955 as due to tuberculosis of the respiratory system numbered seven, the same as last year, and were equivalent to a death-rate of 0.18 per 1,000 of the estimated home population, identical with the rate for 1954. The rate for 1953 was 0.34 per 1,000.

TUBERCULOSIS—Non-respiratory

There was one death during the period under review, equivalent to a mortality rate of 0.02 per 1,000 of the estimated home population, the same as last year. No death was recorded in 1953, but in 1952 there were three deaths.

The following table shows the net deaths actually belonging to the Rural District for the year 1955, distinguishing males and females, and the causes of death agree with the Short List of 36 Causes of Death based on the Sixth Revision of International Lists (introduced 1950), subject to the amendment that Pneumonia (490-493) now includes also Pneumonia of the newborn (763).

Causes of Death	Males	Females
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	6	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	1	—
3. Syphilitic disease	2	3
4. Diphtheria	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—
6. Meningococcal infections	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8. Measles	—	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	10	2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	7	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	12
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	8
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	16	25
15. Leukæmia, aleukæmia	1	—
16. Diabetes	1	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	42	47
18. Coronary disease, angina	39	23
19. Hypertension with heart disease	19	9
20. Other heart disease	53	81
21. Other circulatory disease	9	13
22. Influenza	2	2
23. Pneumonia	7	11
24. Bronchitis	11	6
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	3	—
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	3	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhœa	1	2
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	6	6
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—
31. Congenital malformations	4	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	31	31
33. Motor vehicle accidents	4	2
34. All other accidents	6	8
35. Suicide	6	5
36. Homicide and operations of war	—	—
ALL CAUSES	293	303

INFANT MORTALITY

The deaths of infants under the age of one year numbered 12, males nine, females three, the same as last year.

No less than 75 per cent. of infant deaths occurred during the first four weeks after birth.

The mortality rate calculated per 1,000 live births was 21, as compared with a rate of 25 in 1954 and 37 in 1953.

The infant death-rate for the whole of England and Wales for 1955 was 24.9.

The following table analyses the causes of death in 1955 of infants at stated age periods :

Causes of Death.	DAYS											MONTHS											Total Deaths under one year
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	14	21-28	28-56	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11-12		
Congenital Malformations	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	..	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Post-natal asphyxia and atelectasis	...	I	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3
Birth Injuries	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
Pneumonia	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
All other causes	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
Totals	...	4	...	2	...	...	...	2	...	I	I	I	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	...	...	I 2

Of the total deaths at all ages, infant deaths in 1955 formed 2.01 per cent.

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY. Once again the Registrar-General has supplied particulars of neo-natal mortality (deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age) assignable to the Rural area. According to the information received, the number of deaths of infants occurring under the age of four weeks and assignable to the Rural District in 1955 was nine, amounting to 75 per cent. of all infant deaths. The resultant rate was 16 per 1,000 live births. In 1954 this rate was 15 and the number of deaths 7, amounting to 60 per cent. of all infant deaths.

MATERNAL MORTALITY. There were no maternal deaths during 1955. Only 5 deaths have occurred from maternal causes during the past ten years.

Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases.

Infectious cases are removed to the Deepdale Isolation Hospital, Preston. Very little trouble was experienced in getting patients into hospital, and transport arrangements were generally good and expeditious. Disinfection of houses, books, clothes, etc., was always carried out in those cases where it was considered essential.

SMALLPOX

No case of smallpox occurred during 1955; the twenty-sixth successive year for which the Rural District has been entirely free from the disease.

SCARLET FEVER

A further reduction in the number of cases of Scarlet Fever occurred in 1955; 37 cases being reported as compared with 44 in the previous year and 82 in 1953. The figure is one of the lowest on record. The disease took its usual mild course and complications are now only significant by their absence. Incidence was most prevalent during November and December, when almost half the cases occurred. It was, in fact, the start of a minor epidemic which continued throughout the first two months of 1956. Though case distribution involved numerous parishes, the principal areas affected were Farington, Lea and Penwortham. All the cases, with one exception, were confined to children. The attack rate was 0.94 per 1,000 of the estimated home population, compared with 1.13 per 1,000 for the previous year and 2.13 per 1,000 for 1953. Twenty-two cases were treated in hospital. Particulars of deaths registered as due to scarlet fever have not been provided by the Registrar-General since his adoption of the new Short List of Causes of Death in 1950, but an examination of the death returns, including inward transfers received by the Department during the year, revealed no such cause of death.

DIPHTHERIA

For the fifth consecutive year this disease has been absent from the Rural District, not by good fortune but by design. It is a striking illustration of the success of the immunisation campaign, but this gratifying situation must not be allowed to create a false sense of security. A constant propaganda effort must be directed at parents to ensure that they have their children immunised. There is no place for apathy in the field of preventive medicine.

WHOOPING COUGH

There was a remarkable decline in the incidence of this disease during 1955, only 10 cases being reported. This is the lowest annual figure on record since the disease was made compulsory notifiable in 1940, and it is far below the annual average of 52 for the period 1940 to 1955. Incidence periods and case distribution are rendered insignificant. Though it is an attractive thought to attribute this remarkable decline in incidence to immunisation against this disease, it is too early to form a definite opinion, and for the purpose of this report 1955 must be regarded as a "freak" year. There was no death from this disease, and no patient required hospital treatment.

MEASLES

The period under review was epidemic as far as this disease was concerned ; 315 cases were reported. This compares very unfavourably with the figure of 123 for the previous year, though the latter figure was almost a record low since the disease was made compulsory notifiable in 1940. Almost all the cases occurred in the first six months of the year, incidence being particularly high in March and April. The principal areas affected by case distribution were Farington, Lea, Longton and Penwortham. No one died from the disease, and only four cases required hospital treatment.

DYSENTERY

Thirty-two notifications of dysentery were received ; 20 of the people affected were inmates of the Whittingham Hospital, and the usual disease type was "Flexner." The remainder of the cases occurred in private households and constituted twelve single cases. Duration of symptoms was generally short, and no one required hospital treatment. In fact, it was usual to find the patient fully recovered by the time the notification was received, and the patient's home visited. The infective organism in the cases confirmed bacteriologically was "Shigella Sonnei."

ACUTE ENCEPHALITIS

(Infective)

There was one case ascertained by unofficial notification from a hospital discharge form. It concerned a boy aged $1\frac{3}{4}$ years admitted to the Deepdale Isolation Hospital, where the disease was diagnosed. The patient made a complete recovery.

ACUTE POLIOMYELITIS

(Paralytic and Non-paralytic)

Seven cases were notified ; five paralytic and two non-paralytic. Six of the cases were confined to children between the ages of one and nine ; the remaining case concerned a woman aged 36 years. All the cases were removed to hospital for treatment. Each case was made the subject of a short report upon its history for a subsequent period extending up to six months, with particular reference to the effect functionally of the disease upon the individual. From the particulars obtained, it was ascertained that the five paralytic patients had recovered with functional limitations, but are still receiving treatment. The two non-paralytic patients had recovered with no obvious functional limitations.

NOTIFICATIONS. The table below shows the number of infectious and other notifiable diseases notified during the year 1955 after corrections subsequently made either by notifying medical practitioners or by the medical superintendent of the local infectious diseases hospital :

**Notification of Infectious and other Notifiable Diseases (after correction)
for the year ended 31st December, 1955, analysed by age**

“ Notifiable ” Diseases.	Total Cases Notified.											Total Deaths	Hospital	
	Total Cases at all ages.	Age Periods—Years.											Total cases removed to hospital from the district	Deaths in Hospital of Persons belonging to district
		0-	1-	3-	5-	10-	15-	25-	45-	65 & over	Age un- known			
Scarlet Fever... ..	37	...	1	4	23	8	1	...	...	...	...	...	22	...
Measles	315	8	72	90	137	6	1	1	...	..	...	...	4	...
Whooping Cough ...	10	1	4	2	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
Pneumonia	10	...	...	...	1	...	3	3	3	...	...	*18	6	5
Tuberculosis— Respiratory ...	19	...	...	...	...	...	5	11	2	1	...	7	17	6
Meninges and C.N.S.	1	...	...	..	..	1	..	...	...	...	...	...	1	..
Tuberculosis—Other	4	...	...	1	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	1	1
Dysentery	32	1	3	1	2	...	...	8	12	5	...	...	20	...
Erysipelas	2	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	1	1	...	...	1	...
Acute Poliomyelitis— Paralytic	5	...	1	1	2	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	5	...
Non-Paralytic ...	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...
Acute Encephalitis Infective	1	...	1	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Food Poisoning ...	11	...	2	1	...	...	...	5	3	...	...	...	3	...
Totals	449	10	85	101	169	15	10	31	21	7	...	26	83	12

* The death returns disclosed cases of pneumonia of which this Authority had no record before death.

The township distribution of specified notifiable diseases is set out in tabular form for the year 1955, and for comparison the totals for the preceding four years are given :

Townships.	Scarlet Fever		Dysentery		Measles		Whoop'g Cough	
	Cases notified.	Cases removed.	Cases notified.	Cases removed.	Cases notified.	Cases removed.	Cases notified.	Cases removed.
Barton ...	1	1	...	...	16	1	...	...
Broughton ...	1	...	...	...	1	..	...	...
Cuerdale ...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dutton ...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
Farington ...	6	5	2	...	24	...	...	...
Goosnargh ...	4	4	...	...	5	...	...	...
Grimsargh ...	1	...	...	...	10	...	...	...
Haighton ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hothersall ...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hutton ...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...
Lea ...	7	2	...	...	42	...	2	...
Little Hoole ...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...
Longton ...	...	...	...	...	36	...	1	...
Much Hoole ...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Penwortham ...	16	9	5	...	145	3	7	...
Ribchester ...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...
Samlesbury ...	...	...	4	...	5	...	...	...
Whittingham ...	...	...	21	20	3	...	...	...
Woodplumpton ...	...	...	...	...	11	...	...	...
1955 TOTAL ...	37	22	32	20	315	4	10	.
1954 TOTAL ...	44	30	60	42	123	1	61	...
1953 TOTAL ...	82	48	168	163	389	5	130	1
1952 TOTAL ...	156	95	126	108	301	3	86	1
1951 TOTAL ...	58	38	33	33	328	1	49	...

TUBERCULOSIS

The scheme for the prevention and treatment of Tuberculosis in the administrative County is administered by the Lancashire County Council and the Manchester Regional Hospital Board respectively.

A number of dispensaries are provided for the diagnosis of the disease, staffed by Chest Physicians and Tuberculosis Health Visitors. These dispensaries work in close association with the Sanatoria, and serve a valuable purpose in the main essence of supervision of patients after their discharge therefrom.

The dispensary for patients residing in the Rural District is situated at 12, Walton's Parade, Preston.

The first table below gives in certain specified age groups the male and female notified cases of respiratory and non-respiratory tuberculosis in the year 1955, together with deaths therefrom.

The second table gives a comparison with the previous five years, but excludes age distribution.

Age Periods. Years	NEW Cases.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
2 ...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
5 ...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
10 ..	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
15 ...	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
20 ...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...
25 ...	3	7	1	1	1	...	...	...
35 ..	7	1	...	1	2	...	1	...
45 ...	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
55 ...	2	2	...	...	1	1	...	...
65 ...	2	1	1	...	2	...	...	...
75 and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals ...	20	16	4	5	6	1	1	...
	36		9		7		1	

YEAR	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1955	20	16	4	5	6	1	1	—
1954	16	11	2	2	5	2	—	1
1953	31	15	3	2	5	8	—	—
1952	14	14	7	5	4	1	1	2
1951	13	8	5	4	4	3	1	2
1950	14	11	2	5	6	4	—	2

National Assistance Act, 1948.

Section 47

Number of applications made during the year under Sub section 3 Nil

Number of Orders made Nil

SCHOOLS

The total number of schools in the Rural Area is 34.

Periodical inspections were made during the year for sanitary defects.

A number of defects were found to exist, and these were brought to the notice of the Divisional Education Authority.

NEW LEGISLATION

The following legislation, inter alia, came into force during 1955, except where otherwise stated :

New Towns Act, 1955.

Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1955.

Requisitioned Houses and Housing (Amendment) Act, 1955.

National Insurance Act, 1955.

Rating and Valuation (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1955.

Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage (No. 2) Act, 1955.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955 (1st January, 1956).

Transfer of Functions (Ministry of Food) Order, 1955.

Transfer of Functions (Food and Drugs) Order, 1955.

Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) (Amendment) Regulations, 1955.

Town and Country Planning (Mortgages, Rentcharges, etc.) Regulations, 1955.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

There has been little activity in the field of Food Hygiene during the period under review, as will be realised if the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector is carefully examined, chiefly because only one additional Sanitary Inspector was available for four months of 1955.

However, by virtue of the coming into force of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, at the end of the year, made under sections 13 and 123 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, a great deal of time will have to be devoted to this subject during 1956, as there are well over 300 food businesses in the Rural District, all of which will have to be subjected to a detailed inspection to ascertain in what respects they comply or do not comply with the complex requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations.

The Regulations can be said to replace Section 13 of the 1938 Act as the principal law relating to food hygiene, but they are by far more comprehensive and extensive. For instance, the Regulations apply to "food businesses" and these are defined to include the following, whether or not they are carried on for profit: canteen, club, school, hospital or institution, mental homes, convalescent homes, and any undertaking of a public or local authority (including homes for children and the aged, nurseries, etc.). The Regulations apply whether or not there is any question of sale. Furthermore, food includes drink, and therefore licensed premises are food premises for the purposes of the Regulations. The definition of food, however, does not include milk, cream or separated milk, except dried milk and condensed milk; water, live animals or birds; articles and substances used only as drugs; or any raw food which has to be subjected to a process of milling or refining for the purpose of rendering it in a state fit for human consumption. There are certain exceptions to the interpretation of the term "food business," and the expression, *inter alia*, does not include any agricultural activity, except so far as the handling of food may be involved in the course of a retail business or in the course of supplying food for immediate consumption, but by far and large very few premises concerned with food in the Rural District will escape the requirements of the Regulations. "Food room" is defined to include wash-up rooms, and relevant requirements thus apply to these rooms. Specific Regulations (26 to 28) apply to stalls, and these include any stands, marquees, tents or mobile canteens, and any vehicles, whether movable or not. In addition to these specific requirements, the general requirements of the Regulations relating to "food businesses" and "food handling" apply equally to stalls. These are Regulations 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11 (Part V—Regulations 12 to 25, which relate to "rooms" or "premises," do not apply to stalls). "Food handling" is defined to include assisting in any operation in the sale, preparation, transport, storage, packing, serving, or delivery of food. The Regulations cover such matters as:

- (1) Unsanitary food premises, etc.
- (2) Cleanliness of equipment, etc.
- (3) Restriction on preparation and packing of food in or about domestic premises.
- (4) The protection of food from risks of contamination.
- (5) Personal cleanliness of food handlers.
- (6) Carrying of food and wrapping, etc., of open food.
- (7) Food handlers suffering from certain infectious diseases.

(8) The following matters, inter alia, relating to food premises :

- (a) soil drainage system ;
- (b) cisterns for supplying water to food rooms ;
- (c) sanitary conveniences ;
- (d) provision of water supply ;
- (e) provision of wash hand basins ;
- (f) provision of first-aid materials ;
- (g) provision of accommodation for clothing ;
- (h) provision of facilities for washing food and equipment ;
- (i) provision of lighting of food rooms ;
- (j) provision of ventilation of food rooms.

(9) Requirements relating to stalls and to the transport and carrying of meat.

The operative date, January 1st, 1956, except the following, and in these matters it is July 1st, 1956 :

- (a) Articles or equipment which come into contact with food to be (1) kept clean ; (2) constructed of materials which are readily cleaned, prevent absorption or risk of contamination. (Regulation 6 (1).)
- (b) Prohibition of giving out work to be conducted in domestic premises (Regulation 7).
- (c) Provision of constant water supply in premises (Regulation 15).
- (d) Provision of wash hand basins and water supply thereto (in premises) (Regulations 16 (1) and (2)).
- (e) Facilities for storing outdoor clothing and footwear (in premises) (Regulation 18).
- (f) Provisions of sinks and water supply thereto (additional to (d) above (in premises) (Regulation 19 (a) and (b)).
- (g) Prohibition of use of food rooms which communicate directly with sleeping rooms (Regulation 22 (2)).
- (h) Requirement that certain foods prepared for immediate consumption (unless exposed for sale) shall be stored at a temperature below 50° F. or above 145° F. (premises only) (Regulation 25).
- (i) Supply of water, soap, nailbrushes, towels, sinks, at " stalls " where " open food " is sold (Regulation 28).
- (j) -- Construction and equipment of meat-carrying transport (Regulation 29).

The local authority may grant certificates of exemption relating to those matters (c) to (g) above (and no other) on the ground of :

- (a) restricted accommodation, or (b) other special circumstances (Regulation 31).

— This power is to be reserved for exceptional cases (e.g., remote, inaccessible places, temporary mess huts, temporary measures during alterations) (paragraph 8, Circ. 19/55).

Penalties provide for a fine not exceeding £100 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months or to both, and, in the case of a continuing offence, to a further fine not exceeding £5 for each day during which the offence continues after conviction.

The most important requirements of the Regulations are those related to personal cleanliness, but it remains true that the law is no substitute for education in this matter. The big omission is the compulsory registration of food premises, but, despite this, the Sanitary Inspector is now well equipped to forge ahead and produce that high standard in food hygiene which prevails in some other countries, but which has curiously failed to receive the support of public opinion in this country until recent times.

CASES OF FOOD POISONING. Eleven single cases occurred during the year, and in five cases the organism responsible was identified ; three cases, *Staphylococcus Aureus* ; one case, *Salmonella Typhi* Murium ; and in the remaining case, *Salmonella Thompson*. In practically all cases it was impossible to trace the vehicle of infection, principally because of belated notification.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The following table shows the numbers of certain classes of animals killed in the Rural Area during 1955, together with the number and result of the inspections carried out :

	Cattle, excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known) ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Number inspected	30	33	...	343	269	...
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	...	..	..	3	5	...
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...	26	20	...	78	9	...
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	86	60	...	23	5	...
Tuberculosis only.						
Whole carcasses condemned ...	...	..	..	...	1	...
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned...	...	...	...	...	9	...
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with tuber- culosis	...	...	...	...	4	...
Cysticercosis						
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Carcasses submitted to treat- ment by refrigeration	...	...	...	...	...	..
Generalised and totally con- demned	...	...	...	...	...	...

SAMPLING—FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Samples were taken by the Sampling Officers of the County Public Health Department, which is the authority responsible for the administration of the Act in this respect. Given below are the particulars of the sampling and the results.

A total of 210 samples was obtained ; of these, 135 were of milk (this total includes six Channel Islands milks), and the 75 others comprised :

2 lard	1 milk, condensed, skimmed, sweetened
2 baking powder	2 vegetables, canned
2 apples	2 honey
1 orange	2 tapioca
2 cheese	1 sago
2 vinegar	1 blancmange powder
1 fruit cake	1 carrots, canned
2 butter	1 demerara sugar
2 barley	2 salad cream
1 pork sausage	2 white pepper
1 drinking chocolate	3 flavouring essence
1 salt	1 sugar
1 dried sage	1 icing sugar
1 malt and cocoa beverage	1 mayonnaise
2 beef sausage	1 sweet cigarettes
5 dripping	1 castor sugar
1 gravy browning	5 whisky
2 sweets	2 ground almonds
2 golden eye ointment	2 extract of malt with cod liver oil
3 jam	1 rum
4 semolina	1 gin
1 sponge cake and sponge pudding mixture, sweetened	

All the above samples were reported by the County Analyst to be genuine with the exception of the following :

<i>Sample</i>	<i>Result of Analysis</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
1 Formal Milk	Deficient 27.6% fat and low in solids-not-fat.	Same vendor. Follow-up samples poor in fat and low in solids-not-fat. Farmer interviewed.
1 Formal Milk	Deficient 5% fat and low in solids-not-fat.	
1 Formal Milk	Deficient 1.6% fat and low in solids-not-fat.	
1 Formal Milk	Deficient 12% solids-not-fat. The freezing point indicated the presence of 5.8% extraneous water.	Same vendor. Vendor cautioned and further samples obtained.
1 Formal Milk	Deficient 1.6% fat and low in solids-not-fat.	
1 Formal Milk	Deficient 6.6% fat.	Vendor notified.
1 Sago	Consisted of tapioca.	Vendor communicated with.

<i>Sample</i>	<i>Result of Analysis</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
1 Formal Milk	Deficient 5.2% solids-not-fat. The freezing point indicated the presence of 5.3% of extraneous water.	Prosecution. In connection with this prosecution two further formal samples were taken in another district and these also proved to be genuine. Vendor fined £2 and £5 5s. 0d. costs.
3 Formal Milk	Genuine.	
1 Gin	38.4% under proof. Contained 5.2% excess of water.	Prosecution. Vendor fined £2 and £5 5s. 0d. costs.

PERCENTAGE OF ADULTERATION OF SAMPLES OF FOOD & DRUGS

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total No. of samples</i>	<i>No. of adulterated samples</i>	<i>Percentage of adulteration</i>
1951	308	11	3.5
1952	241	13	5.4
1953	268	15	5.5
1954	231	14	6.0
1955	210	12	5.7

Water Supplies.

The four major sources of water distribution in this rural area are :

- a. The Preston Corporation.
- b. The Fulwood Urban District Council.
- c. The Fylde Water Board.
- d. The Manchester Corporation (Thirlmere).

These supplies are controlled by both chemical and bacteriological tests, and analyses are periodically made.

The townships south of the Ribble are supplied by the Preston Corporation and Manchester Corporation. North Ribble townships receive Fylde, Fulwood and Preston water.

The here inserted table gives a series of figures indicating the water situation in the several townships. Where houses are not receiving a laid-on supply, the explanation is, the non-supplied premises are situated a very long way from the mains :

Parish	No. of houses newly connected to public mains supply during 1955		From Public Mains				From Private Supplies, <i>e.g.</i> wells, springs, etc.	
			Direct to houses		By means of standpipe			
	Existing houses	New houses	No. of dwelling houses	Estimtd. No. of population	No. of dwelling houses	Estima- ted No. of population	No. of dwelling houses	Estima- ted No. of population
Barton ...	...	9	359	1119	...	...	8	25
Broughton ...	...	6	164	524	...	...	...	...
Cuerdale ...	...	..	10	38	...	...	...	...
Dutton ...	...	...	17	54	...	...	45	144
Farington ...	...	103	1381	4214	...	...	...	...
Goosnargh ...	...	1	191	597	...	...	112	360
Grimsargh ...	...	...	247	805	...	...	...	...
Haighton ...	...	...	64	213	...	...	4	14
Hothersall ...	...	...	39	124	...	...	4	14
Hutton ...	...	11	443	1373	...	...	...	...
Lea ...	...	25	1234	3781	...	...	12	40
Little Hoole ...	...	4	220	685	...	...	...	...
Longton ...	...	10	1184	3748	...	...	...	...
Much Hoole ...	...	2	227	688	...	...	2	6
Penwortham ...	...	197	4012	11756	...	...	...	...
Ribchester ...	...	1	413	1307	...	...	37	118
Samlesbury ...	...	3	340	1072	...	...	17	60
Whittingham...	...	15	431	4445	...	...	44	132
Woodplumpton	...	5	463	1667	...	...	46	147
TOTAL Whole District	...	392	11439	38210	...	...	331	1060

Submitted below is a table showing water consumption per head of population per day over the past two years in the different supply areas.

Area of Supply				Sept. 1953	March 1954	Sept. 1954	March 1955	Sept. 1955
				<i>Galls.</i>	<i>Galls.</i>	<i>Galls.</i>	<i>Galls.</i>	<i>Galls.</i>
Longton & Penwortham	...	...	...	31.11	33.71	35.17	32.66	36.72
Farington	...	...	...	24.68	24.70	25.26	35.85	49.16
Lea	...	...	...	31.52	29.25	28.05	32.60	32.54
Samlesbury	...	...	...	34.22	40.05	47.33	27.73	42.42
Ribchester & Hothersall	...	...	...	18.78	35.38	40.68	34.32	32.44

The number of dwelling houses with piped supplies direct from mains is now 11,439.

The approximate number of dwelling houses without a piped supply direct from mains is 331.

Parts of the townships of Goosnargh and Dutton are without a piped supply, but steps are being taken to remedy this.

Population supplied from public water main direct to houses is approximately 38,210 of a population of 39,270.

ANALYSES OF WATER SUPPLIES

Water is purchased in bulk from the Preston and Manchester Corporations, and supplied direct by the Fylde Water Board and Fulwood Urban District Council. Results of examinations of water supplies are received each year from these Undertakings, and they are consistently satisfactory.

Housing

The annual review of the housing waiting list instituted at the end of each year since 1952 had not been carried out by the time this report was compiled, and in consequence genuine figures of housing need were not available, but there is no reason to doubt that it would have shown a further reduction in the waiting list compared with the previous review.

During the year 136 families were re-housed in new Council houses and 52 in houses which became vacant during the year. This latter figure represents annual voids of approximately 4.5% of occupied Council houses.

The position with regard to private development is also encouraging as the following figures illustrate :—

	No. of houses completed
1951	36
1952	50
1953	61
1954	132
1955	235

Though a fair proportion of the owner-occupiers of these houses previously resided in the Rural District, it is true to say that the majority came from outside the district, and there is no doubt that people from the Preston C.B. were well represented.

As regards Slum Clearance, the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, required that a local authority's proposals should be forwarded to the appropriate Minister for approval, and when approved should be made available for public inspection without charge. Concern must be expressed at the apparent increase in the sale to unsuspecting buyers of property earmarked for early demolition. The Minister has asked local authorities to do all they can to safeguard the public in this matter. This sort of thing could have a most depressing effect upon the property concerned; the owner loses interest and the occupiers become dissatisfied with apparent delays in their rehabilitation. This is a very vexed question as sterilisation of a tenanted house means little or no repair will be carried out during any waiting period involved, and as regards the owner-occupied house where possibly "life savings" are involved, a period of great anxiety is caused. It would have been far better if the list had been made available for inspection only when the local authority had taken a resolution in relation to specific property, not only from the point of view of allaying a lot of unnecessary frustration and anxiety, but also to prevent the divulging of information about a particular property included in the publicised provisional programme which is later shown to be not "unfit" within the meaning of Section 9 of the Act of 1954.

Though a start was made during 1955 on a detailed survey of the property included in the provisional programme, by reason of only one inspector being available from August onwards, little headway was made, and only 52 properties were inspected. As soon as the department is up to strength, a determined effort will have to be made to complete the detailed survey in the shortest possible time, so that owners and tenants of the properties concerned can be informed precisely of the Council's future intentions.

HOUSING PROGRESS

1945 to 1955

The following Tables show (1) schemes completed, (2) schemes in progress, and (3) schemes contemplated :

(1)

Scheme	No of houses
Penwortham and Farington	22
Woodplumpton	16
Lea	40
Woodville Street, Farington	12
School Street, Farington	10
Penwortham	52
Barton	40
Samlesbury	16
Grimsargh	22
Woodplumpton	8
Little Hoole	24
Much Hoole	24
Goosnargh	28
Longton	29
Ribchester	22
Sycamore Farm—Penwortham—1st Contract	80
New Longton	36
Sycamore Farm, Penwortham—2nd Contract	38
Ingol	28
Coote Lane, Farington	18
Airey Rural Houses	84
Sycamore Farm, Penwortham—3rd Contract	36
Nabs Head Lane, Samlesbury	30
Stanifield Lane, Farington	28
Kingsfold Estate, Penwortham—1st Contract	50
Kingsfold Estate, Penwortham—2nd Contract	50
Sycamore Farm, Penwortham—4th Contract	80
Kingsfold Estate, Penwortham—3rd Contract	54
Total	977

(2)

	Completed	Houses Under Construction	Not yet Started
Model House Farm, Farington	90	16	—
Studholme Estate, Penwortham—1st Contract	—	74	2
Totals	90	90	2

(3)

	No. of houses
Kingsfold Estate, Penwortham—4th Phase	84
Studholme Estate, Penwortham—2nd Contract	58

OVERSPILL

As part of the general Development Area for Penwortham, some 238 houses will be built in the initial phase. These houses will accommodate overspill population from the Preston C.B. 154 houses have already been completed, and 84 houses are contemplated for 1956. Long-term overspill commitments amount to a further 447 houses.

OTHER HOUSING

In addition to Council houses, houses have been constructed by the Lancashire County Council, Ministry of Works, Kingsway Housing Association (formed by The English Electric Co.), Manchester Regional Hospitals Board and Private Builders.

As far as other housing is concerned, the position at the 31st December, 1955, was as follows :

Constructed by	Completed	Houses	
		Under Construction	Not yet Started
Lancashire County Council	85	—	6
Ministry of Works	208	—	—
Kingsway Housing Association	238	6	6
Blackburn C.B.	2	—	—
Preston C.B.	1	—	—
Manchester Regional Hospitals Board	14	1	—
Private Builders	598	181	—
	1146	188	12

SLUM CLEARANCE

Sixty houses have been demolished since 1945, 44 formally and 16 informally. Undertakings have been accepted in the case of 28 houses; in fifteen instances, that the premises would not again be used for human habitation, and in thirteen instances, the premises to be reconstructed. Three houses were dealt with voluntarily by the owners. Eleven houses are officially scheduled for demolition, but action is deferred until the time is opportune to re-house the tenants.

During the year two demolition orders were made, and two houses were scheduled for demolition. Four closing orders were made under Section 10 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953. Twenty-two displaced persons were re-housed by the Council. Three houses were voluntarily demolished by the owners.

Seventy-nine houses were found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation and action was as follows :—

Repairs during the year

(a) Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action under the Housing and Public Health Acts	31
---	----

(b) Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit following formal action under the Public Health Acts :	
(i) By owners	3
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(c) Housing Act, 1936—action after service of formal notice (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16) Houses made fit :	
(i) By owners	Nil
(ii) By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(d) Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954—Section 5. Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and demolition orders revoked	
	Nil
Clearance Areas (Housing Act, 1936 and Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 :	
(1) No. of dwelling houses demolished during year :	
(a) Unfit houses	Nil
(b) Other houses	Nil
Unfit houses in temporary use (Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954) :	
(1) No. of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7	
	Nil
(2) No. of houses at end of year licensed for temporary occupation (Section 6)	
	Nil
Housing Act, 1949—Improvement grants.	
Number of schemes submitted :	
(a) By Local Authority to Ministry	Nil
(b) By private individuals to Local Authority	18
Number of dwelling houses or other buildings affected	18
Work completed	3
Additional separate dwellings included in the complete schemes	Nil

Sewage Disposal

There are outfall works in six townships, viz : Farington, Penwortham, Lea, Ribchester, Grimsargh and Broughton. In other parishes a septic tank is provided for each house, or alternatively a small sewage purification plant is installed for a group of houses.

Schemes have been prepared for several unsewered areas, and the present position with regard to them is outlined in the Chief Sanitary Inspector's report.

The here inserted table gives a series of figures indicating the sewage situation in the several parishes.

Parish	Connected to Public Sewer		Septic Tank, etc.	
	No. of Dwelling houses	No. of Population	No. of Dwelling houses	No. of Population
Barton ...	70	231	297	913
Broughton ...	51	170	113	354
Cuerdale ...	...	...	10	38
Dutton ...	...	...	62	198
Farington ...	1150	3409	231	805
Goosnargh ...	...	...	303	957
Grimsargh ...	203	665	44	140
Haighton ...	...	...	68	217
Hothersall ...	...	...	43	138
Hutton ...	...	...	443	1373
Lea ...	363	1105	883	2716
Little Hoole ...	...	...	220	685
Longton ...	...	...	1184	3748
Much Hoole ...	...	...	229	694
Penwortham ...	3996	11707	16	49
Ribchester ...	306	992	144	433
Samlesbury ...	51	160	306	972
Whittingham ...	...	..	475	4577
Woodplumpton	...	..	509	1824
TOTAL Whole District	6190	18439	5580	20831

Factories Acts 1937 and 1948.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the Year 1955, for the Rural District of Preston in the County of Lancaster

Most of the factories in the Rural Area are of a small character, and chiefly consist of those relating to Motor Car Repairs and Confectionery. There are, however, four Cotton Mills, two Paper Mills, two Iron Foundries, and a Ministry of Supply Tank Factory.

Defects found to exist related to Sanitary Conveniences. Working conditions generally were good.

As regards the remedying of defects, five written notices were served on the occupiers of the factories concerned, which resulted in the necessary work being carried out.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937 Part 1 of the Act

1--INSPECTIONS for the purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	Number on Register (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	15	4	1	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	109	26	2	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority † (excluding out-workers' premises)	30	10	2	—
TOTAL ...	154	40	5	—

2—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars (1)	No. of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	5	5	—	3	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL ...	5	5	—	3	—

Part VIII—Sections 110 and 111

Number of Outworkers in August List required by Section 110 (1) (c), 7 Wearing Apparel (making, etc.)

J. WALKER.

August, 1956.

Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Inspector's Report

To the Chairman and Members of the Preston Rural District Council

Gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to submit for your consideration the Annual Report on the work of the Department during the year 1955.

The number of visits made by the District Sanitary Inspectors was less by 407 compared with the previous year, but for four months of 1955 only one Additional Sanitary Inspector was available. If the categorised visits included in the report are examined, it will be seen that applications for Improvement Grants resulted in 302 visits to the premises concerned, but quite frankly this considerable volume of work was only carried out to the detriment of other duties such as routine milk sampling, and routine inspection of factories, shops and food premises. Furthermore, greater emphasis had been placed on slum clearance, and this also had its effect on routine work. The number of visits related to infectious disease, especially food poisoning and sonne dysentery, has materially increased over the past year or so, and meat inspection, which has been of little significance in the post-war period, now absorbs far more time. Finally, during the coming year, greater attention will have to be paid to food premises by virtue of the new Food Hygiene Regulations.

The progress made during the period under review on the various schemes of sewerage included a commencement of work on the joint valley sewer, the receipt of tenders for the Grimsargh scheme, and the invitation of tenders for sewer crossings of the proposed Longton By-pass road related to the proposed sewerage of the Parishes of Longton and Hutton.

As regards schemes of water supply, the Fylde Water Board commenced work on the Inglewhite and Goosnargh scheme and reasonable progress had been made at the end of the year. Ministerial approval for the Longton Drumacre Lane booster scheme was expected but not forthcoming, but approval was received for extending the Ribchester supply to the Littleton area. However, the Council decided to make application to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for a grant towards the capital cost before proceeding with the work.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their continued confidence, and the Staff for their willing co-operation at all times.

The following is a summary of the work carried out by the Department during the year :

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S VISITS

Inspection of dwelling houses	314
Insanitary drainage	134
Fouled watercourses	64
Middens	6
Dirty condition of premises	6
Other visits relating to nuisances	250
Infectious disease	240
Verminous premises and persons	—
National Assistance Act	5
Milk and Dairies	39
Food premises	101
Shops	36
Factories	40
Caravans	69
Schools	5
Hotels, Inns, etc.	2
Ice-cream premises	26
Hawkers	5
Rodent control	46
Drain testing	2
Smoke observations	11
Closet conversions	39
Pet Animals Act	1
Petroleum Act	7
Water supply	42
Slaughterhouse and Knacker's Yard	110
Anthrax	1
Swine Fever	22
Housing applications	113
Housing Act, 1949—Improvement Grants	302
Other visits	41
	2,079

NOTICES

Informal	185
Formal	46

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disinfection was carried out in the following cases of infectious disease :

Scarlet Fever	8
Tuberculosis Removals	11
Cancer Deaths	1

To conclude, 240 visits were made relating to Infectious Disease, including visits in connection with cases and outbreaks of food poisoning and Sonne dysentery.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

At the end of 1955 the following position existed in the Rural District as regards sanitary conveniences belonging to inhabited houses :

No. of Fresh Water Closets	10,187
No. of Waste Water Closets	218
No. of Pail Closets	1,215
No. of Privy Middens	150
No. of Movable Ashbins	10,871

The old bog closets and pail closets exist mainly in the outlying parishes and in the small scattered areas.

The following conversions took place, and new sanitary accommodation was provided during 1955 :

No. of Pail Closets to Fresh W.C.s	1
No. of Waste Water Closets to Fresh W.C.s	5

OTHER SANITARY DEFECTS DEALT WITH

Dampness	33
Defective Ceilings	10
Defective Closet Pails	—
Defective Closet Structures	5
Defective Doors	4
Defective Floors	8
Defective Gutters	14
Defective Paving	4
Defective Downspouts	8
Defective Roofs	22
Defective Pointing	6
Defective Walls	21
Defective Brickwork	9
Defective W.C.s	13
Defective Windows	17
Defective Woodwork	12
Defective Fire Ranges	3
Absence of Washing Facilities	1
Insanitary Drainage	134
Fouled Watercourses	64
Dirty Condition of Premises	6
Middens	6
Defective Sink Waste Pipes	2
Defective Sinks	2
Want of Ash Bins	1

CLEANSING

The overall labour situation during 1955 was deplorable. The average weekly staff figure was 25.5 compared with 26 for 1954, but at times the figure was as low as 23, four below establishment, and for the last quarter of the year was rarely above 24. Couple this with the highest sick rate for many years, and 392 additional houses to be cleared, and it becomes perfectly clear why intervals of collection were prolonged following holiday periods. The Employment Exchange rendered very little assistance as the men available were either physically incapable of carrying out the duties of a binman or they did not want the work, because the few men who came and promised to start, either failed to report or terminated their employment within a short space of time. The most significant factor was the inability of the Employment Exchange to send more than a handful of men throughout the year.

During the year 10,871 houses were cleared, and nine waggons were employed for the purpose. Disposal was by means of controlled tipping. Five tips were in operation, and full-time tipmen were employed.

The work is carried out by direct labour, and the following table shows the amount of work done by the motor refuse vehicles from January 1st to December 31st, 1955 :—

Vehicle	Type	Mileage	Petrol (galls.)	Oil (qts.)	Loads No.	Estimated weight of Refuse in Tons.	Miles per Gallon of Petrol.
A.R.N. 512	(Lewin)	3623	1367	203	697	4134	2.65
G.C.K. 226	(Fordson)	5047	700	13	505	1047	7.21
A.R.N. 181	(Karrier)	2027	183	29	202	420	11.07
C.C.K. 178	(Ford)	9737	1326	114	514	643	7.34
C.R.N. 663	(Fordson)	6286	1008	87	606	1250	6.23
D.C.K. 893	(Fordson)	6426	929	56	592	1224	6.92
E.R.N. 987	(Fordson)	9252	1270	97	660	1380	7.28
G.R.N. 212 (Diesel)	(Fordson)	7264	460 (diesel)	27	562	1185	15.79
J.C.K. 73 (Diesel)	(Fordson)	1383	81 (diesel)	1	122	284	17.07
	Totals	51045	7324	627	4460	11567	6.98

SALVAGE

The following table analyses the weight and cash value of materials salvaged during the year 1955.

Materials	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
Mixed Paper	323	19	3	—	2553	19	10
Books	4	4	2	—	39	0	9
Newspapers	12	2	3	—	123	7	10
Rags	6	16	2	27	205	13	4
Carpets	6	2	1	8	36	18	6
String	—	9	3	9	3	8	0
Aluminium	—	10	2	20	69	14	9
Lead	—	3	1	2	15	0	11
Copper	—	3	1	2	36	19	7
Brass	—	1	—	6	3	8	10
Mixed Metal	—	7	2	3	45	16	10
Light Iron	2	—	—	—	2	0	0
Batteries	—	—	1	14	—	10	0
Tins	12	4	2	—	20	9	10
Totals	369	6	2	7	£3156	9	0

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

There are 154 factories on the register, and their condition is satisfactory. Forty inspections were made, and five notices served.

BAKEHOUSES

There are 21 bakehouses on the register. Frequent visits are made to these places and they are on the whole kept clean.

CANAL BOATS

There have been no inspections carried out during the year.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES AND INSPECTIONS

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 to 1954 :

Forty-three licences for Slaughtermen were issued.

There is one licensed Slaughterhouse and one licensed Knacker's Yard in the district. The premises are frequently visited, and where advice has been tendered the response has been immediate.

RIVERS AND STREAMS

The Lancashire River Board has jurisdiction in regard to river and stream pollution over the whole of the rural area.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

There are outfall works in six townships, viz : Farington, Penwortham, Lea, Ribchester, Grimsargh and Broughton. Three hundred new houses and one existing house were connected to the sewerage system during the year.

HOUSING ACT, 1936

The under-mentioned properties have been dealt with during the year :

SECTION 11

(a) Formal Action

1. Houses Demolished

57, Pope Lane, Penwortham.
4, Havelock Road, Penwortham.

2. Undertakings Accepted Nil.

3. Houses scheduled for demolition

Dale Hey Cottage, Blackburn Road, Ribchester.
36, Manor Lane, Penwortham.

(b) Informal Action Nil.

(c) Voluntary Action

Houses demolished

Wooden Bungalow, Hillcrest, Hoyles Lane, Lea.
Ingle Nook, Hoyles Lane, Lea.
Highfield Cottage, off Pope Lane, Penwortham.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT, 1953

Closing orders were made under Section 10 in respect of the following properties :—

Privet Cottage, Town Lane, Much Hoole.
38, Blackburn Road, Ribchester.
2, Lodge Cottages, Newsham Lane, Woodplumpton.
1, Lane End Cottages, Hothersall.

HOUSING ACT, 1949

Improvement Grants were made under Section 20 for improvement work to be carried out at the under-mentioned properties :

Moss Hall Farm, Moss Lane, Little Hoole.
Ashlea, Lea Road, Lea.
7, Carrington Terrace, Lostock Hall.
28, Marshall's Brow, Penwortham.
6, Hope Terrace, Lostock Hall.
Bank Hall Cottage No. 2, Broughton.
New Pigot House, Whittingham.
28, Church Street, Ribchester.
72, Howick Park Drive, Penwortham.
56, Stanifield Lane, Farington.
Moss Priory, Moss Lane, Little Hoole.

HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954

SECTION 26.

Six applications for certificates of disrepair were received.

Three certificates were issued, one application was refused and two were withdrawn following voluntary action by the owners concerned. Of the three certificates issued, two were subsequently revoked, and one application for revocation was refused.

SLUM CLEARANCE

Action taken with regard to the administration of the Housing Act, 1936.

The following table shows action taken in the various Parishes in the Rural District with regard to slum clearance from 1945 to 1955, inclusive :

PARISH.	HOUSES.								
	Demolished.		Undertakings accepted following formal action.		Voluntary action by owners.		Scheduled for demolition.		
	<i>Form-ally.</i>	<i>Inform-ally.</i>	<i>Not to be used for human habitation.</i>	<i>Re-construction</i>	<i>Re-construction or conversion to other use</i>	<i>Not to be used for human habitation.</i>			
Barton	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...
Broughton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
Cuerdale	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dutton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Farington	...	...	9	3	...	I	...	...	...
Goosnargh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Grimsargh	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Haighton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hothersall	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Hutton	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	I
Lea	...	...	6	2	I	I	...	...	...
Little Hoole	...	...	...	I	...	...	...	...	...
Longton	...	...	...	3	3	3	...	...	2
Much Hoole	...	...	3	...	...	2	...	I	2
Penwortham	...	...	18	2	3	2	2	...	2
Ribchester	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	I
Samlesbury	...	...	...	I	3	I	...	...	...
Whittingham	...	...	...	...	...	I	...	...	...
Woodplumpton	...	...	5	4	4	2	...	...	2
TOTALS	...	...	44	16	15	13	2	I	11

PETROLEUM ACTS

No. of new licences granted for storing petrol during the year—3.

No. of renewal licences granted during the year—100.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES, ETC.

There are no common lodging houses or houses let in lodgings on the Register.

CARAVANS

Once again there were numerous instances of illicit parking of caravans on individual sites, and great difficulty was experienced in trying to clear the sites. Group caravanning in the Parish of Penwortham particularly created a problem, but repeated visits by the District Sanitary Inspector with the assistance of the local Police were successful, and enforcement action, which the Local Planning Authority had decided to take, was not necessary.

Altogether, 69 visits were made to caravan sites during the year.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

During the period under review, the District Council continued to carry out, on behalf of the Lancashire County Council, all the inspectorial duties required under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1950, including those duties under Section 38.

Two hundred and eighty-six shops were on the register at the end of the year, and 36 of them were inspected during 1955 under the delegated scheme, and all the shops so inspected were found to comply with the provisions of the Act, and reports were sent to the Lancashire County Council.

RAG FLOCK ACTS

There are no premises in the district on which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

No consent has been given by the Local Authority for the establishment of any offensive trade in the Rural area.

SMOKE ABATEMENT

Eleven visits were made to investigate complaints of smoke nuisance, which were related to such premises as greenhouses and clubs, and in most cases it was found to be the use of unsuitable fuel which gave rise to the nuisance. Statutory action was taken in one case, but usually the persons concerned were co-operative, and advice tendered and accepted resulted in the abatement of the nuisance.

A joint meeting was held in January, 1955, between representatives of the Council and the British Electricity Authority, and the undertaking given by the latter that extra care would be taken to ensure the correct functioning of certain

apparatus at the No. 1 Station to try and reduce the grit nuisance at Penwortham, and the promise of increased staff supervision with a view to removing any defects which might arise from the inefficient working of the plant, certainly had the effect of reducing the number of complaints received by the Department.

ANTHRAX

One case at Samlesbury occurred during the year. The premises were visited and the burning of the carcase and disinfection under police supervision were found to have been carried out in a satisfactory manner.

SWINE FEVER

Twenty-one cases were notified during the year :

Barton	2 cases
Dutton	1 case
Goosnargh	6 cases
Haighton	1 case
Hothersall	1 case
Lea	2 cases
Little Hoole	1 case
Much Hoole	1 case
Samlesbury	1 case
Woodplumpton	5 cases

In all cases the premises were disinfected, and the infected carcasses disposed of under police supervision.

In addition, notices were received placing the following premises under movement restrictions :

The Limes, Lea Town.
Goose Green Farm, Moss House Lane, Much Hoole.
Birches Farm, Goosnargh.
Francess Green Farm, Ribchester.
Stubbin's Farm, Hothersall.
Woodlands, Crown Lane, Bartle.
Adamson's Farm, Rosemary Lane, Bartle.
Haighton House Farm, Higher Bartle.
Cherry Tree Farm, Higher Bartle.
Old Hall Farm, Haighton.
Spring Bank Farm, Samlesbury.
Elston Bottoms Farm, Elston Lane, Grimsargh.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE

No cases were notified during the year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk supply—action taken with regard to :

The administration of the Milk and Dairies Acts and Regulations, and the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

At the 31st December, 1955. there were 65 registered milk distributors in the area, operating from :

(a) dairies in the district	23
(b) premises outside the district	10
(c) milk shops, not being dairies in the district	32

The number of dairies on the register was seven. Six visits were made to dairies and generally the standard was found to be satisfactory.

In addition, and as far as unofficial records show, there were 98 producer-retailers operating in the Rural area.

The following dealers' licences (including supplementary licences) have been issued during the period under review :

(i) The Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949

Tuberculin Tested Milk	44
------------------------------	----

(ii) The Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949

Pasteurised Milk	53
Sterilised Milk	32

There was no refusal or revocation of a licence for graded milk during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS ORDER, 1938

For reasons stated in the introduction to this report, very little time was devoted to routine milk sampling, and no samples were taken in the district to be tested for the presence of tubercle bacilli, nor did the department receive any notification from other local authorities that milk produced in the area had been found to contain tubercle bacilli.

MILK SAMPLING

Twenty-four samples were taken for the Bacterial and Methylene Blue Reductase tests, with the following results :

Satisfactory	24
--------------------	----

No samples were taken in the district for the presence of tubercle bacilli.

Eleven samples of Pasteurised milk were taken and subjected to the Phosphatase test, with the following results :

Samples sufficiently heat treated	11
---	----

FOOD PREMISES

All shops and premises coming within the purview of Section 13, or registered under Section 14, of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, have been inspected and though the general standard is fairly satisfactory, such premises will be kept under constant review.

The total number of premises on the register is 111, and during the year 101 inspections were carried out.

One hundred of the above premises are registered for the manufacture and sale or storage and sale of ice cream. This figure includes two new registrations during the year.

Ninety-six retailers sell loose or pre-packed ice cream manufactured outside the district.

SAMPLING OF ICE CREAM

One sample of ice cream was taken and submitted to bacteriological tests. As a result of the tests, the sample was placed in the following grade :

Grade I satisfactory.

Every endeavour was made by visits, advice and admonition to encourage the production of a clean and satisfactory product.

HAWKERS

Hawkers of Meat, or Meat Food Products, Fish, Fruit and Vegetables, and their premises situate in the Rural area, are registered under Section 14 of the Lancashire County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951.

No. of registered hawkers 27

No. of registered premises 15

The following is a summary of the Foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption during the year :

Description	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	Ozs
Lamb	—	—	2	3	—
Shoulder of Steak	—	—	—	10	—
Shin Beef	—	—	—	14	—
Boiled Ham	—	—	—	20	8
Cooked Boneless Ham	—	—	—	12	—
Brisket	—	—	—	9	—
Total	—	1	—	12	8

Wherever possible, the condemned foodstuff contained in the above schedule was diverted to animal feeding.

In addition, the following carcasses of animals were inspected :

Cattle (excluding cows)	30
Cows	33
Pigs	269
Sheep and Lambs	343

and the following was condemned as unfit for human consumption :

- 74 sheep livers for distoma.
 - 25 beasts' livers for distoma;
 - 16 cows' livers for distoma;
 - 1 beast's liver for cavernous angiomas;
 - 2 cows' livers for cavernous angiomas;
 - 1 pig's carcase for septicaemia
 - 1 pig's carcase for septic pneumonia;
 - 3 pigs' carcasses for swine fever;
 - 2 pigs' livers for cirrhosis;
 - 2 pigs' plucks for inflammation;
 - 2 pigs' legs for inflammation;
 - 1 pig's head for inflammation;
 - 1 pig's liver for hepatitis;
 - 1 pig's part leg and flank for septic condition;
 - 2 cows' kidneys for nephritis;
 - 3 sheep carcasses for severe bruising;
 - 4 sheep hindquarters for severe bruising;
 - 1 pig's carcase
 - 2 pigs' kidneys
 - 1 pig's loin
 - 2 pigs' heads
 - 3 pigs' plucks
 - 1 pig's liver
- } for tuberculosis

Approximate total weight of meat condemned : $16\frac{1}{2}$ cwts.

PARKS AND PLAYING FIELDS

The following schedule gives the Playing Fields provided in the Rural District, and an indication of the area in each field available for games :

Situation	Whole area	Area for games	Area let of for Grazing	Ploughing
Barton	5	...	5	...
Broughton	5	...	5	...
Farington	$10\frac{1}{2}$	...	$5\frac{1}{2}$	...
Goosnargh	$4\frac{1}{2}$	...	$4\frac{1}{2}$	...
Grimsargh	12	...	12	...
Hurst Grange, Penwortham	$16\frac{1}{2}$	...	12	...
Hutton	7	...	7	...
Lea	$16\frac{1}{2}$	...	4	...
Little Hoole	4	...	4	...
Longton	6	...	6	...
Much Hoole	5	...	5	...
New Longton	9	...	9	...
Queensway, Penwortham	5	...	5	...
Penwortham Hall ..	$18\frac{1}{2}$	...	$12\frac{1}{2}$	...
Tardy Gate	$5\frac{1}{2}$	...	$5\frac{1}{2}$	...
Woodplumpton	$6\frac{1}{2}$	...	$2\frac{1}{2}$	...
Totals	$136\frac{1}{2}$	...	$104\frac{1}{2}$	...

The work of the Department during the year also included, in addition to a great deal of maintenance work, the planting of tree and shrubs, and the mowing of grass verges on the Council's Housing Estates.

Rodent Report.

STAFF

During the year one Rodent Officer was employed.

SEWERS

The whole of the sewerage system of the district was test baited in May, when 10 per cent. of the manholes on the main sewerage system were baited with sausage rusk. No infestation was found, and in consequence a certificate of exemption was received valid until the following year.

SEWAGE WORKS

The Council's Sewage Works at Penwortham, Grimsargh, Lea, Ribchester and Farington were treated periodically, and infestation kept down to a minor level.

TIPS

The Council's refuse tips at Barton, Longton, Ribchester and Penwortham were also treated periodically with excellent results, but though minor infestation only now exists, regular visits will be made to these tips in the coming year, and any signs of infestation dealt with accordingly.

BAIT

The bait used was sausage rusk and stale bread mash.

POISONS

The poisons used were Zinc Phosphiade, Arsenic, and Warfarin.

To conclude, much research is being carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food where new methods and poisons are being investigated. A close liaison is maintained with the Ministry through the North-West Lancashire Representative Committee for Rodent Control.

The future of the Agricultural Executive Committee's rat destruction service, which is permissive, is at present under review, and in the near future local authorities may be asked to take over the work of rat destruction on agricultural land themselves. Operational staff would have to be employed, and additional duties of a considerable nature would be created for the District Sanitary Inspectors and the clerical staff of the Department.

A tabular report on the infestation of premises can be seen on the following page.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. COLLIER,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

PREMISES AND INFESTATION.

Type of Property	(I) Total No. of Properties	(II) No. of Properties inspected during 1955 as a result of :			(III) No. of Properties found to be infested with rats (under (II))		(IV) No. of Prop- erties under (II) found to be seriously infested by mice.	(V) No. of infes- ted Properties under (III) & (IV) treated by L.A.	(VI) No. of notices served under Section 4 for :	
		NOTIFI- CATION	SURVEY	OTHER- WISE	MAJOR	MINOR			TREATMENT	STRUCTURAL WORKS, ie PROOFING
Local Authority ...	7	...	7	...	...	5	...	5	...	...
Dwelling Houses ...	10823	29	665	...	...	18	4	19	...	...
Agricultural ...	847	2	75	...	...	31	...	29	...	..
All other (including Business & Industrial.	450	8	85	...	6	4	2	12	...	...
Totals ...	12127	39	832	...	6	58	6	65	...	...

No. of cases in which default action was taken by L.A. following
 issue of notice under Section 4 None
 Legal Proceedings None
 No. of "block" control schemes carried out One

Six of the major type were reduced to minor and re-treatment is to be made.
 Fifty-four of the minor type were cleared, and no post baits were taken. (See Table
 —Column III).

The house-to-house search instituted in accordance with instructions received
 from the Divisional Rodent Officer was continued throughout the year in all
 Parishes.

Agricultural premises are mainly under the control of the Lancashire County
 Agricultural Executive Committee.

Report of Building Surveyor.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting a Report on the buildings dealt with during the year 1955.

The table shows the number and situation of new houses which were erected :

Parish	Dwelling houses erected
Barton	9
Broughton	6
Farington	103
Goosnargh	1
Hutton... ..	11
Lea	25
Little Hoole	4
Longton	10
Much Hoole	2
Penwortham	197
Ribchester	1
Samlesbury	3
Whittingham	15
Woodplumpton	5
TOTAL... ..	392

The following visits have been made in connection with the erection of houses by private enterprise :

Inspection of Site	273
Inspection of Foundations	338
Inspection of Drainage	555
Inspection on Completion	318

In addition, 268 visits were made to the Council's Housing Estates, and there were 594 miscellaneous visits.

TOWN PLANNING

The Lancashire County Council is the Local Planning Authority for the Rural District, and under delegated powers, 652 applications to develop were received. Of these, 223 applications were classified as permitted development under Town Planning.

The Council considered these applications with the following results :

Permission granted	556
Refused	82
Deferred	3
Withdrawn	11

H. COLLIER,

Building Surveyor.

Report on Water Supply.

To the Chairman and Members of the Preston Rural District Council

Gentlemen,

This report is a continuation of the report submitted by the Medical Officer of Health, and deals solely with the work of the Department during the year 1955.

The number of connections shows an increase, as does the number of extensions, compared with the preceding year—this you will notice by the following figures :

Connections	1954	...	193
Connections	1955	...	344
Extensions of Mains	1954	...	2305 yds.
Extensions of Mains	1955	...	2388 yds.

The following table shows the connections made in the various Parishes during the year :

Parish	Houses	Lime Taps	Troughs	Shop
FARINGTON	103	—	—	—
HUTTON	11	—	—	—
LEA	8	6	—	—
LITTLE HOOLE	4	—	—	—
LONGTON	5	5	1	—
PENWORTHAM	174	23	—	—
RIBCHESTER	—	—	—	1
SAMLESBURY	2	1	—	—
TOTAL	307	35	1	1

Extensions to Water Mains for the year are as follows :

Parish	2"	3"	4"	5"
		<i>Yds.</i>		
Farington	187	113	...	...
Longton	...	...	108	.
Penwortham	282	1482	30	186
Totals ...	469	1595	138	186

In addition, general routine maintenance of the Undertaking was carried out, and the following general summary gives a brief survey of the work entailed :

No. of taps re-washed	195
No. of Service Pipes repaired	94
No. of Mains repaired	61
No. of Ball Hydrants converted to screw-down type	9
No. of new Hydrants installed	9
No. of Meters changed	14
No. of Ferrules cleaned	13
Length of Mains scraped	340 yds.
No. of Visits to Consumers' Premises	129

Further, despite labour difficulties, regular flushing was carried out in every Parish served by the Undertaking. In addition, test surveys for bursts were carried out in the Parishes of Farington, Lea, Penwortham, Ribchester and Samlesbury.

Numerous incidental jobs were carried out on the Council's Housing Estates.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

H. COLLIER,

Water Engineer.

